GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:406
ANSWERED ON:20.02.2003
NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR MINORITIES
RAMDAS ATHAWALE

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

e;

(a) whether the J&K Chief Minister has assured the Centre to make all out efforts to rehabilitate the ousted Pandits;

(b) whether the J&K Chief Minister had forced the National Commission onMinorities to seek permission of the Election commission before the proposed visit; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE & EMPOWERMENT (DR. SANJAY PASWAN)

(a) The new State Government of J&Kin its common Minimum Programmehas reaffirmed that the return of Kashmiri Pandits to their motherland is an essential ingredient of Kashmiriat. It has been stated that the Governmentwill seek the cooperation of all elements in the society to create an atmosphere conducive to their safe return, will take all necessary steps to ensure their safety and devise effective measures for their rehabilitation and employment.

(b) & (c) The State Government asked the National Commission forMinorities to seek clearance from the Election Commission for the proposed visit to the State in view of the elections to the State Assemblyand the applicability of Model Code of Conduct. The National Commission for Minorities being a statutory body, suo moto decided not to visit the State during this period.